

WHAT MILL MAN SAYS.

Editor The Advertiser:

Those who, through honest conviction, have opposed the compulsory school attendance in South Carolina, have overlooked the injustice that is done the working man, especially the cotton mill worker, by the absence of such a law.

A man who describes himself as a cotton mill operative pleads for compulsory education as follows in a letter to The Belton Journal of May 29th:

"It seems to the average man working to better his condition that the compulsory education bill would have been a great help. Had it been passed, it would then force the parent to give his child at least an elementary education. It seems inconsistent to say the cotton mill parent you must not work your child until a certain age and then fails to encourage him to send that boy or girl to school a stipulated time. Give us compulsory education, and in a very short time you will perceive our condition greatly improved from an educational standpoint. We realize that an education is the basis for better conditions in our community and the foundation for a more stable government, or one more constructive at least. Compulsory education will force better school facilities, thereby giving more advantages for having and making better citizenship."

"The cheap politician says we are not ready for it and stops right there. Wonder why we are not ready for better citizenship? Will some of those opposed to the bill explain the views they entertain and tell us how long it will be until we are ready for it? Also tell us how to prepare for its passage. Some are using the poor negro as an argument. They fail to know we read and are keeping up with the conditions as they really exist, or else not keeping up with the conditions of the present day. Statistics as they are compiled by our state superintendent of education say there are more negro children in school in our state than whites. So if the negro

goes ahead of us along these lines we can blame no one but ourselves for our condition."

Nearly all the states, including North Carolina, Tennessee, and other Southern States, have seen the need and passed compulsory attendance laws. Time will not wait on children growing up in ignorance in South Carolina. How long must these helpless children wait on South Carolina?

E. H. Blake.

Greenwood, S. C.

June 19, 1914.

IN MEMORIAM.

The following resolutions of respect to the memory of the late John M. Cannon have been passed by Laurens Lodge No. 260, A. F. M.

Whereas, it has pleased the Supreme Architect of the Universe to take from our Lodge our brother, John M. Cannon; Therefore be it resolved,

First, That in the death of our brother, Laurens Lodge has sustained the loss of a true and loyal member, and his presence among us no more, is keenly felt by the members of the lodge.

Second, That while we mourn sincerely the departure of our brother, we bow in humble submission to Him who doth all things well.

Third, That we extend our sympathy to the bereaved family and relatives of our brother and commend them to the care of our Heavenly Father.

Fourth, That a page in our minute book be dedicated to his memory and a copy of this memorial, suitably enclosed, be sent his family, and the entire papers be requested to publish the resolutions.

Respectfully submitted,

R. A. Cooper,

A. C. Todd,

W. L. Taylor,

Committee.

June 12, 1914.

Compulsory Education.

Editor The Advertiser:

The last census of the United States shows that only 72 out of every 100 white children, six to fourteen years of age, of native white parents are attending school in South Carolina. The same census shows that in Ohio, where the law requires that all children of sound body and mind go to school, 90 out of every 100 white children attend.

The following letter from the superintendent of Public Instruction of Ohio in reply to the questions which I insert in parenthesis, will be of interest to your readers who are interested in education:

"Columbus, O., May 27, 1914.

"Mr. E. H. Blake,

"Greenwood, S. C.,

"My Dear Sir:—I will answer your question of May 26th, in the order in which you have raised them.

"(1. Do you believe education has made greater progress in your state under a compulsory law than before such a law was passed?)

"It certainly has. We would not return to the old way without compulsory education under any consideration."

"(2. Are the people trying to get it repealed?)

"No,—we know of no one making any effort to repeal the compulsory education law."

"(3. Do you believe compulsory education would advance the progress of the white people in South Carolina?)

"Yes,—certainly it will advance their education. It will bring more pupils into school, it will help them in school longer each year, and they will certainly be given a better chance for an education, and a better chance in the race of life."

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

"Frank W. Miller,

"Superintendent."

Replies from other states are just as strong.

Yours very truly,

E. H. Blake.

Greenwood, S. C., June 6, 1914.



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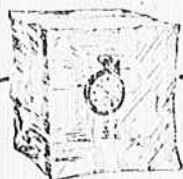
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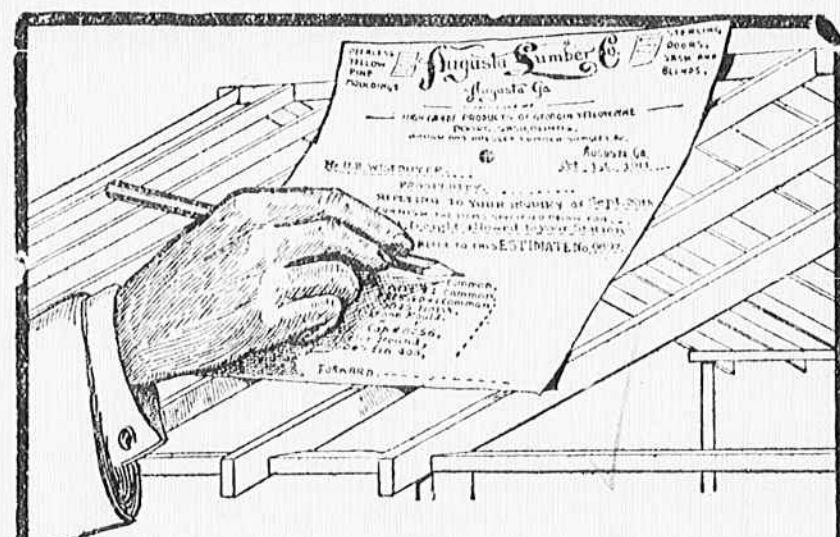
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